

What is claimed is:

1 1. A composition for alleviating acne scarring, comprising a compatible  
2 combination of: a non-retinoid inhibitor of a dermal matrix-degrading enzyme; and an active  
3 ingredient selected from the group consisting of comedolytics, antibacterials, anti-  
4 inflammatory, retinoids, glucocorticoids, and compatible mixtures thereof.

1 2. The composition of claim 1, wherein the inhibitor is an inhibitor is selected  
2 from the group consisting of AP-1 inhibitors, NF- $\kappa$ B inhibitors, elastase inhibitors, adhesion  
3 antagonists, and mixtures thereof.

1 3. The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition is applied topically and is  
2 provided in combination with a dermatologically-acceptable carrier.

1 4. The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition is administered  
2 systemically.

1 5. The composition of claim 1, wherein the active ingredient is a retinoid.

1 6. The composition of claim 1, wherein the active ingredient is an antibacterial.

1 7. The composition of claim 6, wherein the active ingredient is benzoyl peroxide.

1 8. The composition of claim 1, comprising a combination of an MMP inhibitor  
2 and a neutrophil elastase inhibitor.

1 9. The composition of claim 1, wherein the inhibitor is an antioxidant.

1 10. A method for treating acne, comprising the steps of: orally administering an  
2 active ingredient for the treatment of acne and topically administering a non-retinoid, non-  
3 glucocorticoid inhibitor of a dermal matrix degrading enzyme to acne-affected skin.

1 11. The method of claim 10, wherein the active ingredient is a retinoid or a  
2 tetracycline or derivative thereof.

1 12. The method of claim 10, wherein the inhibitor is selected from the group  
2 consisting of AP-1 inhibitors, NF-κB inhibitors, elastase inhibitors, selectin inhibitors, and  
3 compatible mixtures thereof.

1 13. The method of claim 12, wherein the inhibitor of a dermal matrix degrading  
2 enzyme is an MMP inhibitor.

1 14. The method of claim 10, wherein the inhibitor an antioxidant.

1 15. The method of claim 10, wherein the inhibitor is applied regularly from once  
2 every two days to twice daily.

1 16. The method of claim 15, wherein the inhibitor is applied daily.

1 17. The method of claim 10, wherein the inhibitor comprises a combination of an  
2 MMP inhibitor and an elastase inhibitor.

1 18. The method of claim 1, wherein the inhibitor is a direct MMP inhibitor.

1 19. The method of claim 1, wherein the inhibitor is an indirect MMP inhibitor.